

service. In the words of her daughter, Dr. Inetta F. Rogers who serves as the President of Memphis Inter-Denominational Fellowship, "I saw her as a role model in the community and I'm preaching in pulpits where she couldn't." Memphis has been blessed to have benefited from the good deeds of this exceptional mother, wife, friend, spiritual advisor and ministry leader. Hers was a life well lived.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2010
GRADUATES OF THE PRINCE
WILLIAM COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY
ACADEMY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the most recent graduates of the Prince William County Public Safety Academy. As they join the ranks of the Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue, these men and women are entering a proud profession with a rich history.

Securing a position as a first responder begins with a competitive application process. Recruits must then complete a rigorous and comprehensive 23-week training program before graduating as a Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue Technician I.

A Technician I is trained in emergency medical services, fire prevention and countless other public safety measures. The certifications required to reach the status of a Technician I cannot be accomplished without complete dedication and hard work. The graduates have completed the requisite coursework for certification in CPR, Infection Control, CISM, EMT-B, Firefighter I, Firefighter II, EVOC 2, EVOC 3, Flashover Simulation, RIT, Mayday, Hazmat Awareness/Operations, Swift Water Rescue Awareness, LPG with Simulation, Rural Water Supply, BLS Protocols, Rope Rescue Awareness, Vehicle Rescue Awareness and Child Passenger Safety Seat Installation. Each graduate has completed more than 600 hours of training and education.

It is my honor to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the names of the Prince William Department of Fire and Rescue Recruit Class 2010-1:

Benjamin Draxler, Shannon Frick, Nels Jorgenson, Hanif Majeed, Nathaniel Matthews, Timothy Moore, Ariel Morales, Ethan Newham, Chris Payne, Jajuan Reed, Adam Renner, Raymond Sanz, Nicholas Soper and Alexander Thomson.

There are many reasons that firefighters and first responders are known as America's Heroes. These brave men and women regularly put the lives and well being of those they serve ahead of their own. I am confident that this newest group of graduates will serve the citizens of Prince William County with distinction and honor.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the newest members of Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue. I have just two other words I would like to say to them: Stay Safe.

HONORING ERNIE PLANTZ

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American for a lifetime of service to his country and community. Ernie Plantz of Gales Ferry is a World War II veteran with an incredible story and an enduring passion for public service. On several occasions, I have had the pleasure of seeing firsthand the hard work that Ernie puts in on behalf of Connecticut's veterans.

Ernie is a retired Lieutenant in the United States Navy. He survived the sinking of a submarine, the USS *Perch*, and was taken as a Prisoner of War by Japanese forces during World War II. He remained as a Prisoner of War for more than 3 years, living through unthinkable physical and emotion pain.

Today he is a proud member of the Groton Submarine Veterans and has spent much time teaching the children of eastern Connecticut about the history of World War II and sharing his story. It is not unusual to see Ernie at the forefront of any event helping or honoring Connecticut veterans. He is the recipient of a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star. He is also an active member of the Lions Club, and was named a Melvin Jones Fellow by Lions International. This is the highest award for humanitarian service bestowed by the organization.

While Ernie is a survivor in the purest sense, what truly prevails when you meet him is his love of helping others and giving back. For someone that has seen the darkest sides of war, I am inspired by the amount of time and energy that he puts in to help his fellow veterans and citizens on a daily basis. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ernie and thank him for his service to our Nation.

HONORING SERGEANT BRANDON
SILK

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Army Sergeant Brandon Silk of Orono, Maine, who was killed while serving his country in Afghanistan.

Brandon was well-loved by everyone in his family and community. He is remembered for his personality, self-determination and self-confidence. On June 21st, Sergeant Silk died from injuries he suffered in a hard landing on his second Afghanistan tour. At 25 years old, Sergeant Silk's youth punctuates an already painful loss.

Brandon Silk, a fan of hunting, music, motorcycles and the Red Sox, graduated from Orono High School in 2003, where he excelled in football and track. After graduating, Brandon enlisted in the U.S. Army, volunteering to serve and protect his country. He was a Black Hawk crew chief and a member of the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. He was on his fourth tour of duty having served in Korea, Iraq and two tours in Afghanistan.

In Maine, our communities are known for coming together during a crisis, and I know

that everyone in the state stands together to support the Silk family. Brandon is mourned by all as a true American hero and a defender of the freedom we all hold dear.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the memory of Sergeant Brandon Silk for his patriotism and devotion to his community and his country.

IN HONOR OF THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF MOUNT PILGRIM BAPTIST CHURCH, ALBANY, GEORGIA

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church in Albany, Georgia which has served as a tower of strength for the people of the Second Congressional District. The church was founded on July 11, 1920 in a small wooden house located at 627 Society Avenue under the noble leadership of the late Reverend Grant Edgar Hall.

The church was christened by Mr. Jubie Johnson, who was also one of the first members of the church. During its inception, worship services were held on the first and third Sundays of each month. The church's first pastor, Reverend Edgar Hall, retired in 1956 due to ill health and old age. He was succeeded by Reverend R.J. Polk. Since then, the church has been blessed by several pastors who have served the people of Albany as evangelists, prophets, teachers, counselors, and friends. Reverend Polk was followed by dynamic leaders like Reverend P.E. Davenport, Reverend J.L. Jones, Reverend J.E. Brown, Reverend C.W. Heath, Reverend R.E. Ousley, Reverend Jimmy Sneed, Reverend Carl K. Rolle, Reverend Veron D. Lloyd, Reverend Clayton D. Smith and Reverend Dr. James B. Rodgers.

In the last 90 years, the church has seen exponential growth. The church's original edifice was expanded under the guidance of Reverend Ousley. The adjacent land and Annex South were developed with Reverend Rolle's valuable assistance and Annex East was purchased and refurbished under Reverend Smith's guidance. With the effective leadership from the church's pastors and tremendous public support, the church has continued to expand. Under the Reverend Walter L. Ingram, Jr., the church relocated to its larger permanent residence on 1501 Newton Road.

Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church has served as a pillar of strength for the Albany community. Through its numerous outreach ministries, it has strived to serve the people of the great state of Georgia and the city of Albany. By reaching out to those in need and comforting those who are suffering, the church has become a source of spiritual support for the people of the community.

On the occasion of its 90th Anniversary, it gives me great honor to recognize Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church for all its efforts. I thank the church and its congregation for all their years of service. I wish and hope that they continue to spread the word of God and continue serving the community in Albany. To God Be The Glory!